

Support, Training And Resources from Rona Orme, Children's Missioner

If you are still not sure what to give a child for Christmas:
www.wired.com/geekdad/2011/01/the-5-best-toys-of-all-time/all/1

1 Worship Countdown for Christmas

If you are looking for a Christmas countdown to project before an all-age service to help everyone to settle down, take a look at these:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fue8ljPe8

www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1NJ9Mxb96I&feature=relmfu

(more suitable for a slightly older age-group that can read)

You don't have to play the sound if you prefer to give just a visual focus.

2 Events at Kettering Arts Centre (St Andrews Church)

Friday 23rd December Comedians and Carols Tickets £8 (£5 conc) ages approx 9+ doors 7.00pm for 7.30pm, licensed bar.

Paul Kerensa (writer of BBC's Miranda), Jo Enright (Phoenix Nights, Life's too Short), Jude Simpson (all Greenbelt favourites & top quality comics) plus magician Wayne the Weird and musical comedian Tom Wateracre

Saturday 28th January Tropical Inc. Tickets £4 (buy 4 or more pay £3 each)

2 showings: Morning show, doors open at 10.00am

Afternoon show, doors at 2.30pm

Each showing includes time to get up close with the amazing exotic animals plus a chance to experience an interactive & entertaining presentation by one of Tropical Inc's experienced presenters. You'll experience wild and wonderful creatures such as meerkats, parrots, spiders, lizards, skunks and many more...

More details from St Andrew's Church 01536 513858 or Becky Wills

willsbecky@googlemail.com

3 All-Age Worship

Taking the model of Pixar movies (Toy Story, Finding Nemo etc), that involve and delight children, teenagers and adults at the same time, Sam Hargreaves of *Engage Worship* provides extremely helpful advice on how to plan and lead all-age worship. Strongly recommended: http://engageworship.org/articles/All_Age_worship

4 What is a typical family?

New research describes how many people view the family unit. We may not agree but it helpful to learn about the family situations that the children we work with may come from: www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/bulletin/NurseryWorldUpdate/article/1107898/?DCMP=EMC-CONNurseryWorldUpdate

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5 No books!

Almost 4 million children in the UK probably do not own a single book. <http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/1107742/38m-children-without-books/?DCMP=ILC-SEARCH> . If they don't own a storybook they will struggle to discover the Bible.

Now is the time to start planning to join in World Book Day in March. I include lots of ideas about how to do this in *Creative Mission*, a copy of which was sent to every incumbent in the Diocese. Ask to borrow the book, if necessary, so that you can read the suggestions. Or look at the 'adults' button on www.worldbookday.com

STAR poem:

CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE by Wendy Cope

Those of us who are not important enough
To have places reserved for us
And who turned up too late to get a seat at all,
Stand in the nave aisles, or perch on stone ledges.

We shiver in the draught from the west door.
We cannot see the choir, the altar or the candles.
We can barely see the words on our service sheets.

But we can hear the music. And we can sing
For the baby whose parents were not important enough
To have a place reserved for them,
And who turned up too late to get a room at all.

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